

# Alexandria Gazette

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Warren County.  
[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]  
FRONT ROYAL, WARREN COUNTY, VA., September 5, 1873.—I have just returned from a visit to Belmont, the residence of Mr. B. Buck, esq., distant two miles from here, whom we found to be a whole-souled, generous Virginian; and while there we were kindly shown through his extensive vineyards, apple and peach orchards, and wine-cellar. I was truly astonished to find the Belmont vineyards and orchards so extensive, for they have grown famous for the purity and excellence of their wines and magnificent fruits.

What do you think, Mr. Editor, of seventy-five acres in grapes, of casks holding about one thousand gallons of wine or brandy each, of one hundred acres in apple and peach orchards. The stock now ready for market I would suppose to be worth about \$100,000, and the capital invested in lands, buildings, machinery, and other improvements is at least \$100,000 more. The grapes, apples, and peaches here are of magnificent size and unsurpassed flavor and excellence. Such crops of these fruits the eye rarely ever rested on.

The Catawba grape, generally tender, grows here as perfectly as hot house fruit. This is the secret of the superior excellence of the wines and brandies made at this place; the perfection of the fruit. His stock is decidedly the best I have tasted of American manufacture and would pass well for a fine brand of real German Hock. His red wines are, however, his specialty, and are particularly commended. Taking the suggestion of my host that red wines should not be drunk with white, I am unable to speak from the card. The brandy made from wine is certainly very superior. The perfect order and neatness so manifest in the handling of his wines and brandies is the best guarantee of their fine quality. The whole of this immense establishment is under the immediate supervision and management of the proprietor, M. B. Buck, a self-made, systematic, and energetic gentleman. Would that we had more.

I visited, too, "Signal Mountain," (so-called from being used during the late war as a "signal station," and one of the highest points of the many spurs of the Blue Ridge,) and a more beautiful view mortal eye never beheld than is seen from its summit. In your front and to your right and left you survey the fertile valleys of Piedmont and Shenandoah, and in your rear the Luray Valley; to this add the smooth and resplendent waters of the north and south branches of the Shenandoah coursing their way slowly down to a point near this town, where by their junction they form the Shenandoah river proper, and all this interspersed with neat little country towns and hamlets or residences to the distance of forty miles on either side, and you may perhaps form an imperfect idea of this really grand panorama, made still more attractive by the many now historical events enacted here during our late war.

Fall Millinery.  
A few trustworthy hints are obtained about fall millinery, in anticipation of the openings soon to take place at the wholesale houses. The coming bonnets, it is said, may be trimmed either as hats or bonnets. Their crowns are simply broad, but not high; and coronets, when worn, will be the highest ever known, though there are many shapes without coronets.—Whether meant to be a hat or bonnet, the head covering is to be worn so far back that it will only cover the back of the head. Velvet, pure and simple, will be the fabric for winter hats, though much royale (uncut velvet) will be combined with it. Felt bonnets will be worn in Europe, but have never met with much favor here.

A new fabric for trimming, called gros d'Orient, is a soft twilled silk as glossy as satin, and of better quality than the twilled India silk worn for neck ties. This is expected to take the place of the turkish silk now used.

Something fresh in colors is gathered in materials for millinery; for instance, the new rose, or the coral red, a bright crimson, is shown in the gros d'Orient, faile ribbons, and also in the roses and buds that are imported in great quantities. Another color is dragon, a rich brown, showing both red and green, like the scarabae shade of two years ago.

Flowers are larger than those lately worn. Mammoth roses and large buds not quite blown are shown in the new groselle red and the lemon yellow of last season. This association of red and yellow is already popular and will continue in favor, as both blondes and brunettes wear it. Dark brown bronze roses are also shown. Trailing vines and leaf sprays are imported, but at present do not sell readily. A triolier cluster of roses—pink, white, and scarlet, or else pink, crimson and yellow—will be much used on fall bonnets for the clusters worn low down behind. Those buds, long stemmed, and made up of buds of every shade known to nature, and some suggested by art, will be stuck under the side brim of black velvet round hats worn by young ladies. Several colors will appear on one bonnet, blended in the exquisite fashion introduced last spring by a leading French milliner. Two shades of a color, the extremes of a light and dark, will also be used again. The garniture used in imported bonnets, is the garniture used in imported bonnets.

It is shown in slight fibrous leaves that tremble and glitter like jewels. Cherries, currents and grapes (especially white grapes), berries, and other small fruits are among the "artificial" trimmings on French hats.—Harper's Bazaar.

FOREIGN HARVESTS.—The prospect for the harvest in England is good. The wheat has been saved, and is of good quality, and fair in quantity. The frosts of May damaged the early sown wheat, but the later grown crop is good. Says an English paper:

To sum up, then: the barley is expected to be a full average; the wheat may fall short, a little in bulk, but the quality will bring it up to a fair, and in some districts, a very fair, outcome; oats will be plentiful and bright in quality; beans are well podded, and the potatoes, down to the present time, are healthy and abundant. The same satisfactory news reaches us from Ireland, and the barley and oats are particularly promising.

The harvest in France, on the other hand, will be but an average. The vines have been damaged somewhat by frosts and insects.—Baltimore Gazette.

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Interest allowed on deposits, subject to call, as may be agreed upon. Will be glad to give or obtain any information for parties desiring to make investments.

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BUILDING MATERIAL.  
JOHN HAWKHURST,  
Dealer in  
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BILLS cut to order and delivered per Alexandria and Fredericksburg Railway.  
Has just set a Mill in a fresh piece of timber, of which a considerable portion is white oak, of fine quality, much of it suitable for planing vessels.

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Orders may be left at our wood yard, corner of Duke and Union streets, where my son is offering SAWED and SPLIT WOOD for sale at reasonable prices. Postoffice box 200, Alexandria, Va. aug 11-3m

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